



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS CANBERRA

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INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, DECEMBER 1973 (PRELIMINARY)

This bulletin contains statistics of industrial disputes for the month of December 1973 and some previous periods. More information about these disputes will appear later in the detailed quarterly mimeograph *Industrial Disputes* (Reference No. 6.6).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are now compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in the Bureau publication *Australian Standard Industrial Classification (Preliminary Edition)*, 1969, Vol. 1. Statistics on this basis for the years 1968 to 1972 and for March quarter 1973 were published for the first time in the March quarter 1973 bulletin (Reference No. 6.6), which also contained details of the major changes that had resulted from the adoption of ASIC. (See paragraph 16 on page 4 of that bulletin.) The major changes to the industry classification used in the monthly bulletins were set out in paragraph 6 on page 2 of the April 1973 bulletin. Because of these and other changes in industry classification the statistics shown in Table 2 of this bulletin are not directly comparable with similar statistics appearing in monthly bulletins prior to the April 1973 issue, in quarterly bulletins prior to March 1973, and in *Labour Report* No. 56, 1971 (and earlier issues).

3. The statistics of industrial disputes refer only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are employees thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may be estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments but due to the same cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State. A dispute involving workers in more than one industry in a State or Territory is counted only once in the number of disputes — in the industry that has the largest number of workers involved; but workers involved, working days lost and estimated loss in wages are allocated to their respective industries. Disputes not settled at the end of a year are included as new disputes in the figures for the following year. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

5. For statistics of industrial disputes for earlier periods see *Labour Report* No. 56, 1971 (Reference No. 6.7). However, statistics of disputes classified by industry shown in that and earlier issues of the *Labour Report* are not directly comparable with the statistics classified by industry shown in this bulletin (see paragraph 2 above).

TABLE 1. — INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost (a) ('000)	Estimated loss in wages (a) (\$'000)
	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Beginning in month	Total (a)		
1969	..	2,014	..	1,285.2	1,958.0	22,985.7
1970	..	2,738	..	1,367.4	2,393.7	30,883.3
1971	..	2,404	..	1,326.5	3,068.6	45,241.3
1972	..	2,298	..	1,113.8	2,010.3	32,074.4
1973 (b)	..	2,538	..	803.0	2,634.7	45,206.5
1972 —						
December	109	121	24.2	29.0	53.2	933.7
1973 —						
January	153	153	39.9	39.9	82.1	1,365.7
February	278	290	59.2	66.8	248.4	4,095.9
March	268	300	73.9	82.7	231.7	3,941.6
April	146	155	75.9	78.7	192.0	3,134.2
May	212	223	100.4	113.6	304.3	5,026.5
June	165	181	48.1	81.9	363.7	6,148.5
July	196	207	111.4	139.6	225.0	3,962.1
August	216	239	56.0	83.3	218.6	3,714.1
September	252	273	59.5	63.1	215.9	3,639.0
October (b)	289	313	66.2	79.1	245.2	4,397.3
November (b)	241	274	87.9	101.6	257.9	4,884.3
December (b)	122	138	24.6	29.8	49.8	897.1

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period — see paragraph 4 above. (b) Subject to revision.

TABLE 2. - INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES (a), AUSTRALIA
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (b)

Period	Manufacturing				Transport and storage; communication			
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment (c)	Other	Construction	Stevedoring services	Other	All industries
	Coal	Other						
1969	76.1	76.9	643.6	267.1	264.4	136.2	286.4	1,958.0
1970	178.4	76.5	625.9	440.9	618.3	148.3	156.7	2,393.7
1971	251.6	83.2	636.7	317.7	1,109.5	73.9	300.1	3,068.6
1972	60.8	62.0	620.2	393.7	407.8	39.2	205.2	2,010.3
1973 (d)	87.5	155.3	800.8	661.4	439.3	49.5	93.2	2,634.7
1972 -								
December	1.1	1.2	11.9	14.3	3.4	3.0	9.3	53.2
1973 -								
January	1.4	7.6	9.8	34.6	6.5	4.2	6.6	82.1
February	8.4	11.5	37.5	133.3	23.2	1.5	14.9	248.4
March	14.5	33.8	39.0	69.9	16.0	7.1	12.3	231.7
April	5.0	17.4	34.4	96.2	15.6	1.4	3.4	192.0
May	9.0	3.3	115.0	44.0	92.0	0.6	5.3	304.3
June	12.2	5.8	219.7	62.4	49.6	1.5	1.2	363.7
July	4.7	14.6	95.3	23.5	55.6	5.9	7.8	225.0
August	5.4	16.2	38.7	37.5	32.4	12.2	8.7	218.6
September	6.2	8.1	59.5	68.9	8.5	5.9	4.6	215.9
October (d)	10.9	12.1	75.4	58.2	60.1	4.2	3.1	245.2
November (d)	8.4	22.7	49.7	26.9	76.6	4.3	24.8	257.9
December (d)	1.4	2.3	26.9	5.9	3.3	0.8	0.5	49.8

(a) Australian Standard Industrial Classification - see paragraph 2, page 1. (b) Refers to all disputes operative in the period - see paragraph 4, page 1. (c) Includes ASIC sub-divisions 29, 31, 32, 33. (d) Subject to revision.

NOTE. The figures in Table 2 are not comparable with those published in monthly bulletins prior to the April 1973 issue. (See paragraph 2, page 1.)

TABLE 3. - INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (b)
1969	743.8	717.2	238.6	129.0	101.4	9.9	1,958.0
1970	1,393.6	510.8	179.2	93.1	141.1	32.2	2,393.7
1971	1,887.5	689.6	271.4	111.2	69.4	20.6	3,068.6
1972	866.8	638.4	292.2	60.9	94.6	19.2	2,010.3
1973 (c)	1,098.1	780.5	320.2	130.6	117.3	140.1	2,634.7
1972 -							
December	22.5	17.9	6.4	2.7	2.3	1.1	53.2
1973 -							
January	32.8	11.2	4.1	2.6	7.9	19.1	82.1
February	87.0	86.6	16.7	14.7	7.7	33.5	248.4
March	110.0	47.4	18.8	15.2	10.2	28.5	231.7
April	42.9	92.8	18.2	5.7	11.7	9.5	192.0
May	125.6	94.2	56.2	7.9	7.2	12.4	304.3
June	158.5	91.1	75.6	3.0	8.7	18.8	363.7
July	90.8	102.0	17.1	4.2	9.2	1.6	225.0
August	113.0	33.7	42.8	7.1	15.7	2.5	218.6
September	91.2	83.2	25.1	6.8	4.3	0.2	215.9
October (c)	110.3	87.3	14.9	15.3	12.9	1.8	245.2
November (c)	125.2	44.6	27.4	23.3	21.0	8.5	257.9
December (c)	10.8	6.5	3.4	24.7	0.8	3.6	49.8

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period - see paragraph 4, page 1. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Subject to revision.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr G. Laurie on 63 9111 extension 2055, or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.